

What is claimed is:

1. A coupler for use with a belt for coupling an operator to a subject, comprising:  
a sheath in the form of a loop to receive the belt through the loop; and  
5 a rotating connector having a base fixed to the sheath and a rotatable mount  
rotatably and permanently mounted relative to the base;  
wherein an extension leash may be coupled to the rotatable mount and rotate  
relative to the sheath.
- 10 2. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the sheath is adapted to slide along the belt.
3. The coupler of claim 1, wherein the rotatable mount comprises:  
a shaft, a portion of which is located within the base; and  
an attachment device mounted to the shaft.
- 15 4. The coupler of claim 3, wherein the attachment device prevents removal of the  
shaft from the base.
5. The coupler of claim 3, wherein the shaft rotates relative to the base about a  
20 first axis and the attachment device rotates relative to the shaft.
6. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the attachment device rotates relative to the  
shaft about a second axis, perpendicular to the first axis.

7. The coupler of claim 3, wherein the attachment device further comprises a retention disk positioned about the shaft and proximate to the attachment device.
8. The coupler of claim 3, wherein the attachment device is rotatably mounted to  
5 the shaft.
9. A subject-retention system, comprising:  
a belt adapted to be mounted about a waist of an operator;  
a sheath in the form of a loop to receive the belt through the loop; and  
10 a rotating connector having a base fixed to the sheath and a rotatable mount  
rotatably and permanently mounted relative to the base;  
an extension leash, having a connector adapted to connect to the rotatable  
mount and rotate relative to the sheath.
- 15 10. The subject-retention system of claim 9, wherein the sheath is in the form of an openable loop.
11. The subject-retention system of claim 10, further comprising a hook and loop fastener configured to allow the loop to be opened and closed.
- 20 12. The subject-retention system of claim 9, wherein the sheath is in the form of a permanently closed loop.
13. The subject-retention system of claim 9, wherein the sheath is configured to  
25 slide along the belt.

14. The subject-retention system of claim 9, further comprising a quick release connector located along the extension leash to enable a first portion of the extension leash to remain coupled to the belt and a second portion of the extension leash to be detached from the belt.

15. The subject-retention system of claim 14, further comprising a manual loop mounted to the second portion of the extension leash.

16. The subject-retention system of claim 9, further comprising an elastic portion located along the extension leash.

17. The subject-retention system of claim 9, wherein the rotatable mount comprises:

a shaft, a portion of which is located within the base; and  
an attachment device mounted to the shaft.

18. The subject-retention system of claim 17, wherein the attachment device prevents removal of the shaft from the base.

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19. The subject-retention system of claim 17, wherein the attachment device is rotatably mounted to the shaft.

20. An extension leash, comprising:

a strap;

- a first connector mounted to a first end of the strap;
- a second connector mounted proximate to the first end of the strap and located to detach the first end of the strap from a second end of the strap;
- a third connector mounted to the second end of strap; and
- 5 an elastic portion to inhibit the transmission of shocks between the first end of the strap and the second end of the strap.

21. The extension leash of claim 20, further comprising a manual loop mounted to the strap to detach from the first end of the strap and remain coupled to the second end
- 10 of the strap upon release of the second connector.